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Dated: May 8, 2009
Electronic Signature for Shoaib A. Mithani: /Shoaib A. Mithani/

Docket No.: 27793-00101USPX
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Mauro Pedretti

Application No.: 10/550,291

Confirmation No.: 1899

Filed: March 2, 2004

Art Unit: 3633

For: FLEXIBLE COMPRESSION MEMBER FOR A FLEXIBLE PNEUMATIC STRUCTURAL ELEMENT AND MEANS FOR ERECTING PNEUMATIC ELEMENT STRUCTURES

Examiner: D. K. Vesra

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

The Examiner has required restriction between four set of distinct species as follows:

Species 1: A compression member on an outside of a shell as illustrated in FIGURES 1-3 and 8;

Species 2: A web member and elastic joint on an outside of a shell as illustrated in FIGURES 4 and 9;

Species 3: Tubular shells located on an outside of a shell as illustrated in FIGURE 5; and

Species 4: Tubular shells located on an inside of a shell as illustrated in FIGURE 6.

In response to the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action mailed November 10, 2008, Applicant hereby elects, without traverse Species 1, relating to claims 1-6, 9, and 13-18 for continued examination.

However, Applicant respectfully submits that the embodiments identified in the Office Action as belonging to Species 2-4 (FIGURES 4-6 and 9) appear to Applicant as being a single Species. More specifically, it appears to us that the embodiments identified in the Office Action as belonging to Species 2-4 (FIGURES 4-6 and 9) share a same general inventive concept as Species 1, relating to claims 1-6, 9, and 13-18. The general inventive concept according to Species 1, relating to claims 1-6, 9, and 13-18 improves upon a long and thin light-weight pressure rod, to be loaded in operation with pressure only, such that assembly on a construction site of a pneumatic structure is made easier. Furthermore, the pressure rod having same or increased cross-sectional area is resistant to buckling due to the pressure load, can be transported/stored in small volume, and is a light-weight element.

It is thus respectfully submitted that Species 2-4 (FIGURES 4-6 and 9) are variations for providing a pressure element with increased moment of inertia (i.e., resistance to buckling) and can be transported/stored in small volume as disclosed in the general inventive concept according to Species 1, relating to claims 1-6, 9, and 13-18.

Finally, Applicant specifically reserves the right to file a divisional or continuation application directed to the non-elected/canceled features of claims.

Dated: May 8, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

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